

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14-21, 24-39, 41-46 and 53-55 are in this case. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14-21, 24-39 and 41-46 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claims 53-55 have been allowed. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14-21, 24-39 and 41-46 have been canceled.

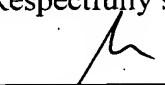
§ 103(a) Rejections – Davis '879 in view of Kihara et al. '097

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14-21, 24-39 and 41-46 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis, US Patent No. 5,825,879 in view of Kihara et al., US Patent No. 6,212,097. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 14-21, 24-39 and 41-46 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims. Applicant reserves the right to defend the canceled claims in a continuation of the above-identified patent application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 53-55 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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